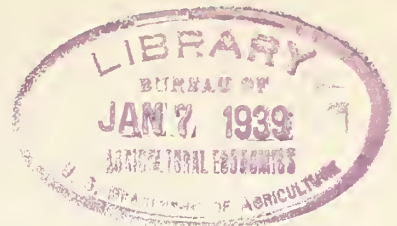


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# SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE NEWS

REGION 4

COMPRISING STATES OF LOUISIANA, ARKANSAS  
AND TEXAS, EXCEPT HIGH PLAINS AREA

REGIONAL OFFICE--FORT WORTH, TEXAS

VOL. IV

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## THREE WATER FACILITIES LOANS ARE APPROVED

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Three West Texas farmers have been granted loans which make it possible for them to install water facilities on their farms to increase agricultural production and to aid in better use of the land, according to Louis P. Merrill, regional conservator for the Soil Conservation Service and C. M. Evans, regional director of the Farm Security Administration.

The loans have been granted by authority of the Water Facilities Act of 1937 which provides that funds may be made available for the construction of stock ponds, farm water storage reservoirs, wells, windmills, water spreaders and small irrigation systems.

The three loans announced are the first to be made to farmers in the arid and semi-arid sections of Texas. They were made to Rice G. Alvis of Haskell in Haskell County; Arthur Shepherd and Robert Barkley, both of Lorraine in Mitchell County.

Mr. Alvis operates a 133-acre farm three miles west of Haskell. Under the terms of the loan the Soil Conservation Service will furnish materials and technical supervision required to install water storage facilities and a small garden irrigation system. The system, when completed, will furnish the farm with approximately 700 gallons of water daily.

Under the terms of the loan, Mr. Alvis agrees to establish and follow a complete soil and water conservation program and a farm and home management plan developed by representatives of the Farm Security Administration and the Soil Conservation Service. These plans, in coordination, will provide better use of the land and make it possible for the farmer to produce most of the food and feed needed for the family and the farm livestock.

A loan made to Robert Barkley, who farms 80 acres located eight miles northwest of Loraine, will cover the installation of a windmill, a farm water storage reservoir and pipe to be used for irrigation of a one-acre vegetable garden. Productivity of the garden will be increased by the irrigation system to such an extent that Barkley will be able to raise most of the food supplies needed to support his family. He will follow a farm and home management program.

Under the terms of the loan, Barkley will use conservation practices on his 68 acres of cultivated land and will practice pasture improvement and controlled grazing on 10 acres of pasture land.

Mr. Shepherd, who has an 80-acre farm near Loraine, has been granted a loan to be used for the construction and installation of a windmill and tower, farm water storage reservoir, tile for garden irrigation, well equipment and a stock pond.

The water facilities program is a cooperative enterprise of the Department of Agriculture being carried on jointly by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the Farm Security Administration and the Soil Conservation Service.

General responsibility for the operations phase of the program is a function of the Soil Conservation Service while the Farm Security Administration has charge of financing farmers and assisting preparation of conservation and farm and home management plans.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics is charged with the responsibility for general or over-all planning of water facilities programs in specified agricultural areas and is not concerned with specific plans for individual farms within these areas.

Eighteen educational meetings have been held in the three water facilities projects in the Region 4 sector of Texas. Representatives of the Farm Security Administration, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, the Soil Conservation Service and teachers of vocational agriculture participated at these meetings which were held to acquaint farmers with the water facilities program.

More than 80 applications have been received from farmers requesting water facilities for their farms.

-scs-

#### NEW DISTRICT CREATED IN ARKANSAS

Farmers of Craighead and Poinsett Counties, Arkansas, this month voted favorably for the creation of the Central Crowley Ridge state soil conservation district, bringing the total number of districts in the state to 13.

As of December 5, 1938, 875 farmers who own or operate 110,940 acres of land located within the boundaries of the 10 operating districts in Arkansas had entered into cooperative agreements with their respective boards of district supervisors and had started establishment of complete and coordinated soil and water conservation systems on their lands.

In addition, the supervisors reported that farm plans on another 134 farms covering 16,463 acres are nearing completion. Farm plans have been completed on an additional 100 farms comprising 11,415 acres.

It was also reported that conservation surveys had been completed on 1,065,775 acres of land in the 10 districts as of December 5, 1938.

More than 2,780 farmers in the operating districts have filed applications with their boards of supervisors asking assistance in establishing erosion control practices on their farms.

-scs-

# SCS-CCC CAMPS COMMENDED FOR SAFETY RECORDS

By George B. Cooke  
Regional Safety Engineer

Twelve superintendents of Soil Conservation Service CCC camps in Region 4 have received letters of commendation from Dr. H. H. Bennett, Chief of the Service, or from Louis P. Morrill, regional conservator, in recognition of safety records made by the camps.

As of August 31, 1938, the Forrest City, Ark., camp had operated continuously for a period of 28 months without a disabling injury being sustained by any enrollee or member of the camp personnel.

As of November 30, 1938, the Schulenburg, Texas, camp had operated for a period of 27 months without a single disabling injury to any enrollee or member of the camp personnel.

During recent months safety records of 10 other camps have received recognition in letters of commendation from the regional conservator. The following 10 have operated for periods ranging from 12 to 21 months without disabling injuries being suffered by any enrollee or member of the Camp personnel:

<u>Camp</u>	<u>Superintendent</u>
SCS-Ark-4, Pocahontas	R. M. Quartermous
SCS-Ark-5, Damascus	Walter T. LaFollette
SCS-Ark-11, Jacksonville	Alics A. Parsons
SCS-Ark-16, Berryville	Andrew J. Walker
SCS-Ark-18, Charlotte	Claude C. Holmes
SCS-La-4, Farmerville	James P. Hinton
SCS-La-18, Mt. Hemon	James K. Livingston
SCS-T-1, Temple	William J. Deane
SCS-T-7, Bartlett	Alonzo N. Gibson
SCS-T-20, Mt. Pleasant	Harry DeP. Boine

Dr. Bennett's letters of commendation to Neil N. Snyder, Forrest City and to George T. Young, Schulenburg, follow:



Dear Colonel Snyder:

It has been brought to my attention that you have achieved a record of having served as Camp Superintendent at Camp SCS-Ark-10, Forrest City, Arkansas for a period of 28 months, ending September 1, 1938, without a disabling injury being sustained by any member of the camp personnel, including enrollees.

I am authorizing Mr. L. P. Merrill, Regional Conservator, to make proper acknowledgment of your accomplishment and also for that of each member of your technical and supervisory staff while you were at Camp SCS-Ark-10 by incorporating this record in both yours and your subordinates' personnel records.

Please accept my congratulations for this splendid record and express my appreciation to the members of your organization for their assistance in making it possible.

Dear Mr. Young:

It has been brought to my attention that the service activities under your jurisdiction have been conducted in such a manner that no lost time injury has occurred in your camp since August 13, 1936, which is truly an enviable record.

Please accept my congratulations upon this achievement and express my appreciation to the members of your organization for their assistance in making this accomplishment possible.

-scs-

#### CORRECTION

The November issue of Soil Conservation Service News carried a story on Page 4 dealing with the farming operations of J. M. Danley of Scottsville, Ark. The second paragraph of this story contained this statement: "Since that time, the meadow has furnished grazing for livestock and an average annual hay crop of 300 bales to the acre." This should have read: "Since that time, the meadow has furnished grazing for livestock and an average annual hay crop of 300 bales."

-scs-

## GIRL WRITES ESSAY DEALING WITH CONSERVATION

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For the past two years the Red River Soil Conservation Association, membership of which is composed of farmers operating land in the vicinity of Martin, La., has sponsored a soil conservation essay writing contest among the high-school students. This year's winner is Miss Drucilla Hunter, an eighth-grade student at Martin High School.

Miss Hunter's essay was printed in the Coushatta Citizen on November 25, 1938. Because the essay shows how effectively the Association has been able to inform students about the seriousness of erosion, it is reproduced here:

### SOME OF THE REASONS WHY IT HAS BECOME NECESSARY FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO UNDERTAKE AN EROSION CONTROL PROGRAM

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By Drucilla Hunter

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The government has realized that if something isn't done to stop the hill land from washing off into the various creeks and rivers, finally into the oceans, that in the course of a few more years the hill land is going to become so poor, the hill farmers cannot continue to make a living on it. And it is not unlikely that our country will be in a similar condition as that of Egypt, China, and other older nations.

This has brought about much study and experimental work by the government. As a result the government decided to put on an erosion control and soil building program to help and teach the farmer to take better care of his soil so as to keep down erosion as much as possible.

This program was undertaken by the Soil Conservation Service, a bureau of the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. The purpose of this work is to show by actual demonstration that our soils can be saved from erosion and maintained in a much more productive state over a period of time, if proper methods of cultivation or land use are practiced. The Soil Conservation Service has about 150 Project Demonstration Areas in the United States such as the Natchitoches and Red River Parish areas. This area is typical of a large territory in this and adjoining states. The Soil Conservation Service is authorized to spend federal funds on privately owned lands. This practice was adopted because of the fact that the assistance given on individual farms within the area serves as a practical demonstration for the benefits of all farmers and land owners outside the demonstration area.



Many years ago when people's land became too poor for good production they would let the land grow up in bushes and trees and clear up some new land, never thinking that some day good land might be scarce. Many times people run the rows up and down the hills letting the top soil wash away very quickly, not only ruining the soil of the hill sides by washing off, but by sanding over the better land at the bottom of the slopes and carrying many million tons of our best top soil into the oceans every year. It is no longer possible for people to clear up new land when all the present cultivated land is worn out as there is no more good land available. Therefore, we can see the wisdom of the Federal Government's interest in soil conservation. Our nation and our people must act before it is too late. So why not use erosion control practices and try to keep the good soil you now have.

-SCS-

#### DISTRICT SUPERVISORS APPOINTED IN LOUISIANA

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The Louisiana State Soil Conservation Committee has appointed two landowners in each of the seven recently created state soil conservation districts to serve on the board of district supervisors, according to Dean J. G. Lee, of Louisiana State University, chairman of the state committee. Elections will be held in the districts in the near future so that farmers can select the other three members of each board.

Those appointed are:

Foliciana District: E. H. Percy, Weyanoke  
Henry D. Reiley, Slaughter  
Dorchest District: J. R. Stewart, Minden  
Walter G. Herritt, Boston  
Saline District: Atkins Bailey, Homer  
R. D. Conly, Ringgold  
Upper West Red River District: L. E. Walker, Shreveport  
D. B. Means, Gloster  
D'Arbonne District: Fred H. Wade, Downs ville  
J. S. Owens, Hico  
Sabine District: Edgar S. Talbert, Keatchie  
O. E. Williams, Many  
Pearl River District: C. L. Tins, Franklinton  
A. O. Ott, Kentwood

-SCS-

## TEXAS AGRICULTURAL WORKERS MEET IN JANUARY

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Conservation of soil and water, crops and wildlife is one of the topics for discussion at the 12th annual meeting of the Texas Agricultural Workers' Association to be held in Fort Worth on January 13 and 14, 1939.

Other topics listed for discussion by members of the Association and special speakers include Agricultural and Industrial Handicaps, Additional Sources of Farm Income, Agricultural Education, Contribution of Women to Soil Conservation, Animal Husbandry, Agricultural Economics, the Farm Home and Horticulture.

Special guest speakers for the meeting include Dr. Helen M. Strong, Washington, D. C., head, educational relations, Soil Conservation Service; Dr. Walter P. Webb, Austin, Tex., professor of history, University of Texas; Lewis W. Morley, New York City, executive secretary, American Jersey Cattle Club; Reagan McCrary, Calvert, Tex., president, Texas Cooperative Council; D. M. Clements, Washington, D. C., federal agent Agricultural Education; Jack Turner, Fort Worth, secretary, Texas Hereford Association; and F. M. Simpson, Chicago, Ill., head, Bureau of Agricultural Research, Swift and Company.

Radio Station KTAT, Fort Worth, will broadcast the proceedings of the annual banquet to be held in Hotel Texas on Friday, January 13, beginning at 8:15 P. M. and WCAP, Fort Worth, will carry a program at 9:00 A. M., January 14, depicting the history and objectives of the Association.

Officers of the Association are: Louis P. Merrill, Fort Worth, regional conservator, Soil Conservation Service, president; Eugene Butler, Dallas, editor, Progressive Farmer, vice-president; Maurine Hearn, College Station, district agent, Texas Extension Service, secretary and W. O. Cox, Houston, director Agricultural Department, Houston Chamber of Commerce, treasurer.

-scs-

### LAND UTILIZATION INTEGRATION UNDERWAY

Transfer of the land utilization divisions of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from the regional office at Little Rock to the regional Soil Conservation Service offices at Fort Worth was effected this month.

Gradual integration of the land utilization activities with the Soil Conservation Service is now being effected.

-scs-

## FIELD TRIAL GRASS PLANTINGS TO BE MADE

By W. M. Nixon, Assistant Agronomist

Preparations are now being completed for a series of field trial plantings of upland hay grasses to be made throughout the Coastal Plains sections of Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas, next spring.

The use of strip crops for erosion control on cooperating farms in the Coastal Plains section has been somewhat handicapped due to the fact that an upland hay grass that could be readily established on permanent strips has been lacking.

Perennial grasses are more effective erosion control plants than the annuals commonly used, and do not have to be planted each year as do the annuals. Under average conditions, with the proper seed bed preparation, depths of planting, and cultivation, the following perennial grasses have shown definite promise for use on strips in the Coastal Plains sections: Little bluestem, Rhodes grass and switchgrass.

Evidence of their possibilities have been noted in observational plantings at the Soil Conservation Service nurseries at Sibloy, Louisiana, and San Antonio, Texas. One of the primary functions of the Soil Conservation Nurseries is to make plantings and to observe grasses to determine if they will be of value for control of erosion in this region.

Little bluestem and switchgrass are found native throughout the Coastal Plains. Rhodes grass plantings at Sibloy reveal that this plant promises to be of value for forage as well as seed production. Rhodes grass is a perennial but acts like an annual in parts of the Southern Coastal Plains area where temperatures go below 15 degrees F. Although it may not survive during the cold winter months, it is hoped that it will reseed itself.

It is believed that sufficient information has been obtained at the nurseries regarding these grasses to make field trial plantings at work units throughout the Coastal Plains. The plantings are to be made in contour strips on predominant soils located on average slopes where the average degree of erosion exists. The grasses will be seeded in rows on a well prepared seed bed and will be given the necessary cultivation.

It is hoped by use of these perennial grasses that a forward step will be made toward establishing a more permanent, effective and desirable strip cropping program in the Coastal Plains areas.

-SCS-

#### RADIO PROGRAM TO DEPICT WORK IN ARKANSAS DISTRICTS

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"Arkansas Organizers", a dramatized radio program depicting farmer cooperation in the organization of state soil conservation districts in Arkansas will be broadcast over Station WLW, Cincinnati, Ohio, on Saturday, January 7, beginning at 5:00 P. M. CST. The program will last 15 minutes. WLW operates on an assigned frequency of 700 kilocycles and has a power of 50,000 watts.

The Arkansas program will be the 37th in a series of dramatized WLW programs dealing with soil and water conservation in various parts of the country.

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#### REGIONAL CONSERVATOR'S HOLIDAY MESSAGE

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I take this opportunity to express to each member of the Service my sincere appreciation for the splendid work that has been accomplished during 1938 and to extend every good wish for your continued well being during the New Year.

Louis P. Merrill





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CONSERVATOR  
REGION 4

Neil P. Anderson Building  
Fort Worth, Texas.

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